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ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

The state of Iowa recognizes as one of its basic functions the care, custody and administration of its public archives. The organization of these functions in 1906 was assigned to the Historical Department of Iowa. In a short while the archives work was erected into a division of our institution. Cassius C. Stiles has been in charge as superintendent of archives throughout the effective existence of this work. Mr. Stiles has prepared, and we have published in earlier editions of the ANNALS, his classification of materials derived from certain of the principal offices, respectively, as follows: Office of Governor, Vol. X, No. 3, Oct., 1911; office of Secretary of State, Vol. X, Nos. 4-5, Jan.-Apr., 1912; office of Auditor of State, Vol. XII, No. 1, April, 1915; office of Treasurer of State, Vol. XII, No. 3, Oct., 1915; office of Adjutant General, Vol. XVI, No. 2, Oct., 1927.

In the present ANNALS we present Mr. Stiles' classification of the remaining principal offices, to-wit: Of the Executive Council and the Agricultural Department.

It now becomes appropriate to publish Mr. Stiles' general discussion of Iowa public archives administration. It accompanies the classification of the materials of the two offices last above named.

It is intended to assemble and republish in book form with amendments and corrections, our system of administration, classification and information upon the actual use made by the public of the archives themselves.

Thus there will be produced what may amount to a complete manual for a repository of public archives. It comes from the hand of one of the most expert and devoted workers in this field in the entire country, treats of a collection and administration resorted to with profit by investigators, attorneys, public officials, and historical writers in our own and other states and in foreign nations. We have only pride and assurance in presenting it as Mr. Stiles' contribution.

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